

KAMO Newsletter for April, 2017

Hello to all KAMO members and friends of KAMO,

After I write this I am taking my daughter Selina turkey hunting, today is day five for us and it has been tough, but we have been having a blast and that is what it is all about.

I recently sent out a message to all KAMO's Board of Directors Members, in which I asked for feedback on improving the quality of our website. The most profound suggestion was from KAMO VP Bob Nicsic and it concerned writing more about what KAMO does on our homepage. I agree with Bob and in my letter to the BOD I had suggested that each chapter does this on their individual page as it will explain what they do in their region of Wisconsin. I am asking that all 7 KAMO chapters please review their page on our website and do your best to improve it and then send your work to Leah and Katie.

Concerning the website again, Ben Gruber recently announced that he could use help on the Mentoring Tip of the Month. This is simple and fun, all you have to do is think about the present month that we are in and write your thoughts about what would be fun or interesting to do or perhaps what is happening in our woods and waters at that given season of the year. This is due each month by the 25th to both Leah and Jim.

In closing, I feel KAMO is doing very well, the paperwork should be completed for the Marsh/Point Chapter within a few weeks, I really like what I see with our two new VPs, Dawn and Bob and I feel that our members are working hard but not so hard that I am concerned with burnout.

On that note Selina has a turkey to hunt and I want to thank all of you for your dedication and hard work.

Mark G Walters, KAMO President

Mentoring Tip for the Month of May:

Spring Foraging: Finally, we have left winter behind. Nature's buffet is once again open and plentiful. Morel mushrooms are the most popular right now, but also available are wild asparagus, dandelion greens, watercress, ramps and others. Paired with a fresh turkey or wild trout or crappie, fresh foods from the woods are tough to beat!!! There are many books to help you ID wild edibles, and I am sure there are apps for your smart phone too! I can attest, after eating morels, asparagus, ramps, watercress and mint all foraged this week!!!!

Submitted by Ben Gruber

News from the Baraboo Chapter:

The Baraboo chapter had its most recent meeting on 4-03-2017. A couple of our mentors have taken kids out and successfully harvested turkeys this spring with still more seasons to go. We were a part of

the Sauk County Earth Day Celebration held in Rock Springs, but unfortunately there were very few kids in attendance as compared to last year. We will be having our joint fishing days with the Lake Wisconsin Chapter throughout the summer months, but are still working on the exact dates. We will be doing a camping trip at the Juneau County Park on June 16-18 and have 4 sites reserved, in case anyone would like to join us. We are entering one of my favorite times of year with everything greening up and so many types of fish spawning, it provides many opportunities for some great memories. Take advantage of this. Tradition Forward.

Submitted by Rick Miotke

News from the Coulee Chapter:

Coulee has taken advantage of the days kids have had off of school and taken groups out on the Best Dam Fishing Float near Dresbach 3 times in late March and early April. Kids have caught perch, suckers, northern, and walleye. One of these groups, on April 14th, was a KAMO sponsored Boys and Girls Club outing. One mentor took kids to see maple syrup processing.

Three mentors and a local warden mentored four kids during a three-day camping/ turkey Learn To Hunt on the Meadow Valley Wildlife Area. No birds were taken, but there were plenty there. There was more game sighted during our stay there than I have seen in decades. For most of the participants, it was their first time on the property and they want to come back for a deer Learn To Hunt.

On Saturday, April 29th, we have a river cleanup day on Pool 7 and also would like to assist Mc Mullen Park near Warrens in its cleanup day. Our Brat Fry is scheduled at the Crossing Meadows Festival on May 6th.

A representative of the Outdoor Recreation Alliance (O.R.O) came in to speak at our last meeting. Jeff Worrell is a former fly fishing guide and present avid backpacker Master Falconer. He leads a group of a couple hundred thirtyish area professionals who mountain bike, climb, back pack, kayak, etc. The O.R.A funds itself by offering local hotels a guide service to their patrons who are often interested in an outdoor activity while staying in the area. They are especially connected to the Charmant. They want to increase their involvement with kids and kept hearing about our group and eventually got connected. The prospect for our groups to partner on activities seems excellent.

We had our college intern make us a mentor/ volunteer friend flyer and we have been challenging people in the area to distribute it. This student came on our LTH and is currently compiling a list of all the outdoor related organizations in a four-county area and another list of the programs at the U.W. - LaX that have a service requirement.

Submitted by Mike Brown

News from the Indianhead Chapter:

We had about 5 kids and mentors hunting turkeys on mining company land during the last two weeks with 2 turkeys bagged, including one by Matt with help from Grandpa Floyd.

Donna reported on data coming for the DNR grant—KEEP IT COMING!

We had a successful Brat and Hamburger sale on April 28 and 29, with around \$75 just in donations. We gained a new mentor, Kathy, who came in just in time to replace Ray at the brat stand after he removed brush (about face high) while riding his 4-wheeler. Use a chain saw next time, Ray!

We will have a Birdathon count and hike on May 27 on the Mine property and a wildflower hike on June 10 with a couple of Friends of KAMO from out of the area.

Submitted by Jim Kurz

News from the Lake Wisconsin Chapter:

Hi All, slow month but we did get some kids out for the Turkey youth hunt, no luck and Fishing. Still trying to recruit mentors and kids. Working on future events and R3 Grant papers. Tradition Forward!!

Submitted by Bob Brodeur

News from the MarshPoint Chapter:

MarshPoint KAMO Chapter is chugging along, it seems we pick up a new mentor every other month or so, just by word of mouth. We have been invited to an event in Marshfield in June, called AgriVenture. 50 local kids will be invited out to a local farm for 6 nights, and will be learning about farming, gardening, forestry, and biology and ecology. We will be helping at the Muddy Waters Hunting Retriever Club Hunt Test that happens at the dog training grounds of the Mead Wildlife Area in July. Slowly word is getting out about our presence in the area and we are excited about our potential.

From Ben Gruber.

News from the Meadow Valley Chapter:

The Meadow Valley Chapter recently had their annual Learn To Hunt Turkey Hunt. We again partnered with the local NWTF Chapter and had a very successful hunt. In total 17 kids participated and 5 birds were harvested. This continued to be an outstanding annual event.

Jody and Dan were able to scout and hang up two of the wood duck houses that we had the kids build at our ice fishing event in February. We will be looking for a date to get some more hung up.

Our next meeting will be held at the New Lisbon Sports Club and we will be having our annual shooting night. In the past, this night has included archery, trap, rifle, .22, and also high powered air

guns. Looking forward to another fun night and we will be finalizing our annual summer camping trip in July. Our busy months are upon us, and it is nice to get back into the swing of things again!

Submitted By Aaron Bigalke

No news this month from the Northwoods Chapter

Newsletter put together by Jim Kurz, KAMO State Secretary